



**Homeland
Security**

Press Release

May 19, 2004

Contact: 202-282-8010

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AWARDS MORE THAN \$17 MILLION TO INCREASE PREPAREDNESS OF SEATTLE

Today the Department of Homeland Security awarded \$17,213,842 from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to enhance the overall security and preparedness of Seattle. Of these funds, \$795,280 is specifically designated to help Seattle's mass transit system enhance the security of its assets and passengers.

"Homeland Security is pleased to be part of the Administration's efforts to direct funds to areas with greater security needs," said Secretary Ridge. "Since FY'03, Homeland Security has awarded over \$1.5 billion in UASI funds to directly address the needs of 50 urban areas. These funds help fulfill one of our most critical missions – to enhance the preparedness of states and localities across the nation."

Secretary Ridge announced the application period for UASI in November 2003, as part of \$725 million allocated in FY'04 for urban area preparedness and mass transit security grants. Urban areas are chosen based on a formula that takes into account factors including population density, amount and vulnerability of critical infrastructure and credible threat information. The funds are distributed to the designated states, which work with cities and counties to form regions that will work together through mutual aid agreements, interoperable communications, statewide intelligence centers and community and citizen participation.

On March 30, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security also awarded \$44,015,000 from the FY04 Homeland Security Grant Program for training, equipment, exercises and planning to help the first responders of Washington better secure their communities.

In total across the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice, this Administration has provided \$13.1 billion dollars in direct homeland security grants from FY'02 to FY'04, as compared to only \$1.2 billion allocated from FY'99 to FY'01 – more than a 900% increase in the commitment and spending on homeland security.

###